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Four years later, however, an organization was adopted which gave to the Institute the latitude of a comprehensive learned society. Among all the activities planned only a few were in any way conspicuously carried out, in default of the necessary support, the most important and material of these being the establishment of a botanic garden and a museum. The former occupied the extreme eastern end of the Mall which then approached much nearer the capitol than at present, and included the site of the present United States Botanic Garden.

Starting with a cabinet of minerals which remained predominant in this connection, this feature soon developed into a general though small museum, containing specimens of zoology, botany, ethnology, archeology, fossils, etc. Transferred to the National Institution in 1841, some of the objects are now readily distinguishable in the United States National Museum, forming, it may be claimed, the nucleus of its collections.

The institute obtained its meeting places and accommodations for its museum mainly through the favor successively of the executive departments, the municipal government, and Congress. It was first located in Blodget's Hotel, containing the general post office and the patent office, followed by the treasury department and city hall, being finally assigned a permanent home, in 1824, in the western addition to the capitol building, which had just been completed. The use of the site for its botanic garden was also a grant from Congress.

However unfortunate in the realization of its ambitions, the Columbian Institute nevertheless occupied an enviable position among the earlier associations of this country for the breadth and importance of its object, even if they be regarded only in the nature of suggestions, which have since been so fully recognized in the organization of the government and elsewhere, and for its hearty and unselfish efforts to carry them out. The Columbian Institute owed its establishment and early successes to a masterful mind, that of Dr. Edward Cutbush, then a surgeon in the Navy,

and the first president of the society, though acknowledgments are also due to Thomas Law for the suggestion of such a society at the seat of government.

The membership of this institute included a great many of the prominent men of every walk of life in Washington, among them John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and well-known representatives of the Army, the government service, the medical and other professions.

**AWARD OF THE JOHN SCOTT LEGACY MEDALS  
AND PREMIUMS AND OF THE EDWARD  
LONGSTRETH MEDAL OF MERIT**

THE city of Philadelphia, acting on the recommendation of The Franklin Institute, has awarded the John Scott Legacy Medal and Premium to Alfred Rishworth Tattersall, of London, England, for the "Midget" Marvel Flour Mill.

This device is a small and simple form of flour mill, designed to enable local millers to make a good grade of flour at a comparatively low cost. It is of especial value in farming communities in which the flour mills run by water power have been abandoned.

And has also awarded the John Scott Legacy Medal and Premium to Max Ulrich Schoop, of Zurich, Switzerland, for the Schoop Metal Spraying Process.

In this process, wire of some easily fusible metal, like zinc, is fed into a device called a spraying pistol. The wire passes through a tube and at its end comes into contact with burning gas, by which it is melted, and the molten metal is sprayed by an air blast upon the surface to be covered. The use of this process has been found to greatly increase the life of patterns for castings.

The John Scott Legacy Medal and Premium has also been awarded to Thomas A. McCall, of South Akron, Ohio, for his inventions embodied in the early development of the Hooven Automatic Typewriter, and to John H. Pillings, of Hamilton, Ohio, for his inventions and improvements embodied in its later development.

The Franklin Institute has awarded its Edward Longstreth Medal of Merit to The

Hooven, Owens, Rentschler Company, of Hamilton, Ohio, for the development of ingenious methods used in the manufacture of this typewriter.

This machine is capable of producing typewritten form letters much faster than they can be written in the ordinary way.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

A SPECIAL board of chemists to investigate explosives, the uses of gases in warfare and to act as advisers to the Bureau of Mines, has been appointed. The board will study the problem of increasing the production of materials used in explosives manufacture and will advise the bureau in the operation of the recently enacted law regulating the sale of explosives. The members are: Dr. William H. Nichols, of the General Chemical Company, New York, chairman; Professor H. P. Talbot, head of the chemical department of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; William Hoskins, of Chicago, a consulting chemist; Professor H. P. Venable, of the University of North Carolina; Professor E. C. Franklin, of Stanford University, and Dr. Charles L. Parsons, of the Bureau of Mines.

PRESIDENT J. G. SCHURMAN, of Cornell University, has announced that the State Food Commission, of which he is a member, had completed its organization. Its work is now in three divisions—production, under Commissioner Wieting; distribution, under Commissioner Mitchell, and conservation, under Commissioner Schurman. For each of these divisions a bureau has been established with a director at its head. Calvin Huson, a former commissioner of agriculture, heads the bureau of production, and Cyrus Miller, a lawyer of New York City, the bureau of distribution. Professor Howard E. Babcock, of the State College of Agriculture at Cornell, now director of Farm Bureaus, has been appointed director of the bureau of conservation. Professor Babcock will receive a leave of absence from the university for the period of his service with the Food Commission.

THE mission sent to France by the Rockefeller Foundation to assist in combating the

threatened increase of tuberculosis has decided to work in three sections under the general direction of Dr. Livingston Farrand. The first section will establish in one of the arrondissements of Paris and in certain large provincial towns a complete antituberculosis organization consisting of dispensaries, clinics and laboratories, with provision for domiciliary attendance. This section will be directed by Dr. Miller. A second section, under Dr. Charles White, will undertake the distribution of assistance. A third section, under Professor Gunn, will be concerned with the education of the public; it has already commenced to organize traveling exhibitions, meetings and kinematograph displays.

THE British Industrial Research Committee of the Board of Education have made a grant to Professor G. H. Bryan, F.R.S., of the University College of North Wales, which will enable him to devote the whole of next session to the carrying on of some special research work in aeroplane construction of national importance. In the first instance Professor Bryan proposes to work at the University of Bristol.

THE following-named officers, Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps, are relieved from duty at the Engineer training camp, and will report by letter to the director, United States Geological Survey, for assignment to duty connected with military mapping: From Fort Leavenworth, Kans., Second Lieutenants Elmer LeC. Goldsmith, John W. Lewis, Edward J. Francis, Elmo N. Murphy, Carl R. French, William D. Lewis, and Charles B. Moore. From American University, District of Columbia, Second Lieutenants Charles M. Madden, Edward H. Stelle, Frederic E. Smith, Edward P. Asbury, George B. Davidson, Frederick W. Look, Gordon D. Cooke, Joseph W. Geary, Jr., and Walter K. Wood, and also Second Lieutenant Herman J. Switzer, Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps.

MR. A. H. GILBERT has accepted a position as a pathological inspector with the Federal Horticultural Board with headquarters at Washington, D. C. Mr. Gilbert was formerly